

Regular Session, 2009

## HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 109

BY REPRESENTATIVE CHANDLER

FORESTRY: Urges and requests support and assistance in providing funding for the Wood to Electricity Program being developed by the Wood Products Development Foundation

## 1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request support and assistance in providing funding for the Wood to Electricity  
3 Program being developed by the Wood Products Development Foundation.

4           WHEREAS, the major focus of the Wood Products Development Foundation is the  
5   expansion or development of new uses of wood and wood waste products that result in a  
6   positive impact on the economic conditions of the state; and

7           WHEREAS, the timber industry has experienced a serious decline in recent years,  
8   and this downturn will continue unless new use sources are developed in the immediate  
9   future; and

10 WHEREAS, after studying numerous potential industries, the foundation determined  
11 a project that used wood and wood waste products to create electricity would be the most  
12 economically viable expansion of raw wood products for the long term; and

13 WHEREAS, the use and need for electricity will continue to increase, and these  
14 projects will provide a renewable, green source of electric power that does not affect the  
15 nation's food supply or demand for food-based agricultural products and materials for an  
16 indefinite period; and

WHEREAS, these wood to electricity projects provide an additional market for raw wood products even in a distressed market, provide an additional source of electricity at a market rate that is carbon neutral, and provide a dedicated electrical source available locally to supply viable defense structures and critical facilities in times of natural disasters; and

1           WHEREAS, the foundation has completed plans for two centrally located plants  
2     within the state that will use wood waste products from wood producers in the vicinity; and

3           WHEREAS, the electrical production will be made equally available to wood-related  
4     industries and a grid for the benefit of low-income households within reasonable vicinity of  
5     the plant sites; and

6           WHEREAS, the two proposed projects will inject sixty million dollars into the  
7     economy in terms of construction and start-up costs and will create a minimum of thirty  
8     permanent full-time jobs at the plant sites and approximately one hundred jobs for suppliers  
9     of the wood fuel feedstock; and

10          WHEREAS, in the last several months, significant regional job losses in the wood  
11     industry make this effort even more vital to securing new alternatives for value-added  
12     market activity related to the wood resources of the state; and

13          WHEREAS, there is a current need for additional funding to complete the necessary  
14     regulatory, environmental, engineering, and administrative functions to fulfill the  
15     requirements for construction loan approvals.

16          THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby  
17     urge and request the Louisiana congressional delegation, the governor, the Department of  
18     Economic Development, the Department of Agriculture and Forestry, and the Public Service  
19     Commission to assist in providing funding for any necessary additional requirements,  
20     documentation, or studies that may be needed to secure long-term funding, and to assist in  
21     developing state and federal policies for wood to electricity projects that put them on a  
22     commensurate funding and taxation level with wind and solar generated electricity.

23          BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the  
24     Louisiana congressional delegation, the governor, the Department of Economic  
25     Development, the Department of Agriculture and Forestry, and the Public Service  
26     Commission.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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Chandler

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